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Wine & Harvest Festival features grape stomping, arts and crafts, free music and more

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – Paw Paw Wine & Harvest Festival's three-day event, Friday, Sept. 5, through Sunday, Sept. 7, offers something for everyone, from grape stomping to arts and crafts, free music and more.

Friday, Sept. 5

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - The Witch's Parlor at Taylor's Florist & Gifts, 215 E. Michigan Ave.
- 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. - Paw Paw Brewing Co., 780 S. Gremps St. • Local brews and wine • Live entertainment.
- 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Julian Winery & Distillery, 716 S. Kalamazoo St. • Winery tours, spirit tastings and sales • Live entertainment: On the patio – 3 to 6 p.m., Tom Noack; 6 to 9 p.m., Dave Johnson; In the tank room – 6 to 9 p.m., Donald Savoie. Food by Floatin' Franks.
- 10 a.m. to midnight - Warner Vineyards, 706 S. Kalamazoo St. • Spirit tastings and sales • Live entertainment - Fool House, call for time and tickets (269) 657-3165.
- 2 to 8 p.m. - The Lucky Wolf at the Paw Paw Playhouse, 404 E. Michigan Ave. • Food, drinks, and free live entertainment.
- 5 p.m. - Carnival opens, S. Gremps St. Sponsor: Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce
- 5 p.m. – Refresco Grape Stomp, Lakefront Park, W. Michigan Ave. • Team competition and open stomping.
- 5 to 7 p.m. - Dogs Just Wanna Have Fun - Ultimate Air Dogs, on the corner of N. Niles St. and E. Michigan Ave.
- 5 to 8 p.m. - Hole-In-One Contest, Lakefront Park, W. Michigan Ave. • Benefitting "Unleash Love"
- 5 to 11 p.m. - Concord Trolley – Free rides around town • Sponsor: CSL Plasma.
- 5 p.m. to midnight – Festival Tent, corner of S. Gremps and Paw Paw streets • Beer and wine service • Live entertainment: 5 to 8:15 p.m., Out of Favor Boys; 9 p.m. to midnight, Bronk Bros.
- 5 p.m. to dusk - Marketplace booths throughout downtown.
- 5 to 11p.m. - Lakefront Amphitheatre, W. Michigan Ave. •Food booths. Live entertainment: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Silian; 8:30 to 11p.m., The Unknowns
- 9:30 p.m. – Festival Fireworks over Maple Lake, Lakefront Park, W. Michigan Ave. • Sponsor: Paw Paw Downtown Development Authority.

Saturday, Sept. 6

- 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., - Grape Escape Classic Car, Truck & Motorcycle Show, downtown along Michigan Ave. • Sponsor: John Tapper Automotive.
- 9 a.m. - Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk, start at corner of Hazen and Lake streets. • Sponsor: Freshwater Community Church, benefitting local non-profits.
- 9 a.m. - Kiwanis Cornhole Tournament, corner of Michigan and Gremps streets.
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Grape & Wine Harvest Pickleball Tournament, Freshwater Community Church. • A fun Round Robin tournament - For more information, call (269) 657-5076.
- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - The Witch's Parlor at Taylor's Florist & Gifts, 215 E. Michigan Ave.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Arts & Crafts Show, downtown Van Buren County Park and Paw Paw St. • Sponsor: Paw Paw Service League.
- 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Hole-In-One contest, W. Michigan Ave. • Benefitting "Unleash Love"
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Petting Zoo, 403 E. Michigan Ave. • Sponsor: Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Stompyland, W. Michigan Ave. • Free children's activities and crafts • Hosted by East Van Buren Girl Scouts.
- 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – Refresco Grape Stomp, Lakefront Park, W. Michigan Ave. • Team competition and open stomping. •1 p.m. - Lucille Ball Grape Stomp Contest, Lakefront Park.
- 10 a.m. to dusk - Marketplace booths throughout downtown.
- 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. - St. Julian Winery & Distillery, 716 S. Kalamazoo St. • Winery tours, tastings and sales • Live entertainment: On the patio – Noon to 3 p.m., Anna White; 3 to 6 p.m., Dave Johnson; 6 to 9 p.m., Tom Noack; In the tank room – 6 to 9 p.m., Neil Jansen.
- 10 a.m. to 11p.m. - Live Entertainment, Lakefront Amphitheatre, W. Michigan Ave.
- On Stage: 10 to 11, Eleven Eleven Yoga; 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Paw Paw Library presents Scribble Monster; 2 to 4 p.m., Robotics; 6:30 to 8 p.m., Kate & K-Nein; 8:30 - 10:30 p.m., Vineyard Chicks.
- 10 a.m. to midnight - Warner Vineyards, 706 S. Kalamazoo St. • Tastings and sales • Live entertainment: The House Bandits, Classic Rock Experience, and All American Throwback (call for times and tickets).
- 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Dogs Just Wanna Have Fun - Ultimate Air Dogs, on the corner of N. Niles St. • Showtimes: 11a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. • Your Dog Try It between shows.
- 11a.m. to 5 p.m. - Sloppy Joe Lunch, Paw Paw - Lawton Mason Lodge, 234 E. Michigan Ave.
- 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. – Concord Trolley – Free rides around town • Sponsor: CSL Plasma.
- Noon - Grape Lake Kayak Race, Sunset Park, N. Kalamazoo St. at Power Plant Road • Sponsor: Lounsbury Excavating.
- Noon to 4 p.m. - Video Tournament, Klassic Arcade, 200 S. Gremps St.
- Noon to dusk - Bad Axe Billy's Axe Throwing, S. Gremps St. by the Festival Tent.

Sunday, Sept. 7

- 7 to 9 a.m. - Vineyard Classic Bike Tour Registration, Hazen St. • Tour begins at 8 a.m.
- 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Hole In One, lakefront, benefitting "Unleash Love."
- 9 a.m. - 3 On 3 Basketball Tournament, Performance Fieldhouse, 1027 E. Michigan Ave.
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Lakefront Amphitheatre Stage: 10 a.m. to 11p.m. - Church on the Lake, hosted by RedArrow Ministries; 11 a.m. to noon - New River Voices; 1p.m. - Worship Arts of Kalamazoo; 2 p.m. - RedArrow Youth Band: 3 to 4 p.m.- Truth Church Worship Band.
- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Arts & Crafts, Downtown Van Buren County Park and Paw Paw St. • Sponsor: Paw Paw Service League.
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Marketplace booths throughout downtown.
- 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Sloppy Joe Lunch, Paw Paw-Lawton Mason Lodge, 238 E. Michigan Ave.
- 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. - St. Julian Winery & Distillery, 716 S. Kalamazoo St. • Tastings and sales • Live entertainment: Neil Jansen – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; • Food by Floatin' Franks.
- Noon - Bad Axe Billy Axe Throwing, near the Festival Tent, S. Gremps St.
- Noon - St. Julian Festival Parade, W. to E. Michigan Ave. through downtown • Sponsor: St. Julian Winery.
- Noon to 4 p.m. - Warner Vineyards, 706 S. Kalamazoo St. • Spirit tastings and sales • Live entertainment: Jared Knox and the Hagerbombs.
- Noon to 5 p.m. - Concord Trolley – free rides around town, • Sponsor: CSL Plasma.
- Noon to 5 p.m. – Festival Tent, corner of S. Gremps and Paw Paw streets. • Local beers and wines • Live entertainment: 1:30 p.m., Dance Party - Otsego Jazz Ensemble.
- 2 p.m. - Hole-In-One Finals, Lakefront Park, W. Michigan Ave.
- 2:30 p.m. - Paw Paw Lions Club Duck Race, Warner Vineyards riverside, 706 S. Kalamazoo St.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday - Carnival Midway, S. Gremps Street, behind the wineries and near Paw Paw Brewery • Sponsor: Paw Paw Area Chamber of Commerce.

For a complete schedule of events or more information, visit: www.wineandharvestfestival.com.

Ox Roast draws large crowds to Lawrence

More Photos on Page 5

Chip Christie, a member of the Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming festival committee, looks over the beef that was cooked during the festival in Lawrence. The 100 pounds of meat was then sliced, put into sandwiches, and given out to festival goers on Monday.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

Paw Paw Schools bans cellphones in classrooms

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Public Schools' "Disconnect to Reconnect" initiative was launched at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year in response to the Surgeon General's report that warned of the dangers of social media.

Concerned about the negative impacts of cell phones and social media, administrators decided to conduct a student survey at Paw Paw High School in Spring 2024. When students were asked about their cell phone use, 40 percent responded, "I'm probably addicted," and another 31 percent said, "I use it too much."

Additionally, school administrators and teachers found another disturbing trend in the classroom. Students were becoming less engaged in learning and showed signs of having less retention of the material that they were supposed to be learning.

To combat these negative trends, the district adopted the "Disconnect to Reconnect" Initiative, which was fully supported by the Paw Paw Public Schools Board of Education. Essentially, the goal of this initiative is to help students reengage each other and their learning. Designed to keep cell phones out of the classroom, this policy protects the learning environment and allows students to escape the pressure of cell phones, notifications and the urge to respond to messages.

Paw Paw High School has implemented the following rules to support this policy:

- Cell phones and Smart watches are to be silenced and left in lockers. They are not to be present in classrooms at any time without administrative approval.
- Students caught with their device in class will have it confiscated and held in the office until the end of the day.
- Repeated offenses will result in discipline, including detention, and suspension.
- Students may choose to use their phone at lunch, in the lunchroom, but will be expected to return it to their locker after lunch.
- Parents who need to get hold of their student are asked to call the office at (269) 415-5600 to leave a message for them.
- Students requiring an exemption for medical purposes will be considered on an individual basis, with appropriate medical documentation for conditions such as diabetes management.

Weapon found in vehicle during routine sweep of parking lot at VB Tech

LAWRENCE - A weapon was found Thursday, August 28, in a vehicle during a routine sweep of the parking lot at the Van Buren Tech, Lawrence, according to Van Buren Intermediate School District Superintendent David Manson.

In a release to Van Buren Tech families and students, Superintendent Manson said, "We want to inform you about a situation that occurred at VB Tech this morning. Out of an abundance of caution, a temporary hold of students was put in place after a weapon was discovered in a vehicle during a routine sweep of the parking lot.

Superintendent Manson said, "Our team, in partnership with VBISD Emergency Management and local law enforcement, responded swiftly and effectively. Students remained safe in their classrooms while the situation was addressed. The matter was resolved without incident, and at no point were our students or staff in danger. Once the area was secured, the hold was lifted and the school day returned to normal."

He further stated, "We know situations like this can feel unsettling, but please be reassured that our safety protocols worked exactly as intended. The vigilance of our staff, along with the support of law enforcement, ensured a safe and calm resolution. The safety and well-being of our students will always remain our highest priority.

"As a reminder, weapons of any kind are not allowed on school property. We ask our students and families to partner with us in maintaining a safe environment by checking vehicles, backpacks, and personal belongings before coming to school."

He concluded, "Together, we can continue to keep our campus a safe, secure, and welcoming place for

PPHS joins network to build advanced manufacturing workforce

PAW PAW - According to the National Association of Manufacturers, the United States is projected to face a shortfall of 1.9 million manufacturing workers by 2033. This projected shortage is getting attention on the global stage as well. At the 2025 World Economic Forum, manufacturing leaders were asked, "How do we build and secure the manufacturing workforce of the future?"

It's an important question and a challenge that Paw Paw High School is embracing through a new partnership with the SME Education Foundation through their signature program, SME PRIME, The SME Foundation is the philanthropic arm of SME, the nonprofit committed to building and expanding North America's manufacturing talent. Paw Paw High School students will now have the unique opportunity to engage in innovative training in advanced manufacturing. Guided by input from private industry, SME PRIME creates customized manufacturing and engineering programs in high schools nationwide. The program provides essential resources such as equipment, curriculum, teacher training, student scholarships, funding for extracurricular activities, and support for long-term sustainability.

"SME PRIME paves the way for students to gain real-world, in-demand skills that lead to rewarding careers in Michigan's growing advanced manufacturing industry," said Rob Luce, vice president of the SME Education Foundation. "We're proud to partner with local educators and manufacturers to close the skills gap and build a more resilient workforce. We're also grateful to the State of Michigan for its trust and support in helping to inspire, prepare, and support the next generation of manufacturing and engineering talent."

In addition to the SME PRIME program, Paw Paw High School is undergoing exciting physical transformations as well. To prepare for the launch of SME PRIME, Paw Paw High School's STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Lab has been completely renovated. The renovated space features new manufacturing equipment, flexible modern furniture, and a more efficient use of space designed to encourage innovation and collaboration. Also underway at the high school is the construction of a new multipurpose addition that will host large events such as robotics, cheer, band, and athletic competitions. At a time when students have many educational choices, the programs and enhancements at Paw Paw High School make it a highly appealing option for area families.

"It's our vision as a district to be united with our community to build success," said Paw Paw Public Schools Superintendent Jeremy Davison. "The SME PRIME program not only helps our students gain hands-on experience that aligns with our core values of success and innovation but also sets our district apart as we work with SME PRIME and our local manufacturing partners to prepare students for meaningful careers in the manufacturing workforce."

Paw Paw Community Chorus to begin practice Sept. 8 for Christmas concert

PAW PAW - The Paw Paw Community Chorus will begin practicing on Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, located on the corner of Kalamazoo and Pine streets, Paw Paw, in preparation for their 25th Annual Christmas Concert to be presented on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church, 420 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn, will be accompanied on piano by Evonne Heystek

The following selections will be presented by the chorus: "We Are Waiting" by Sally K. Albrecht, Charles Wesley, and Jay Althouse, "There Is Faint Music" by Nancy Buckley and Dan Forrest, "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton/Arr. by Roger Emerson, "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, "Bring Us Hope" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "In December" by Jay Althouse, "Sending You a Little Christmas" by Jim Brickman, Victoria Shaw and Billy Mann/Arr. by Jay Althouse, "On With the Snow" (A Medley of "Sleigh Ride", "Winter Wonderland", and Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!") Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner, and "Ring in the Holidays" by Greg Gilpin.

The chorus welcomes all singers from Southwestern Michigan to join in this endeavor.

For further information, contact E. Ike Porter at (269) 366-9864, Bruce Safbom at (630) 817-0100, or Theresa Vaughn at (269) 668-4631.

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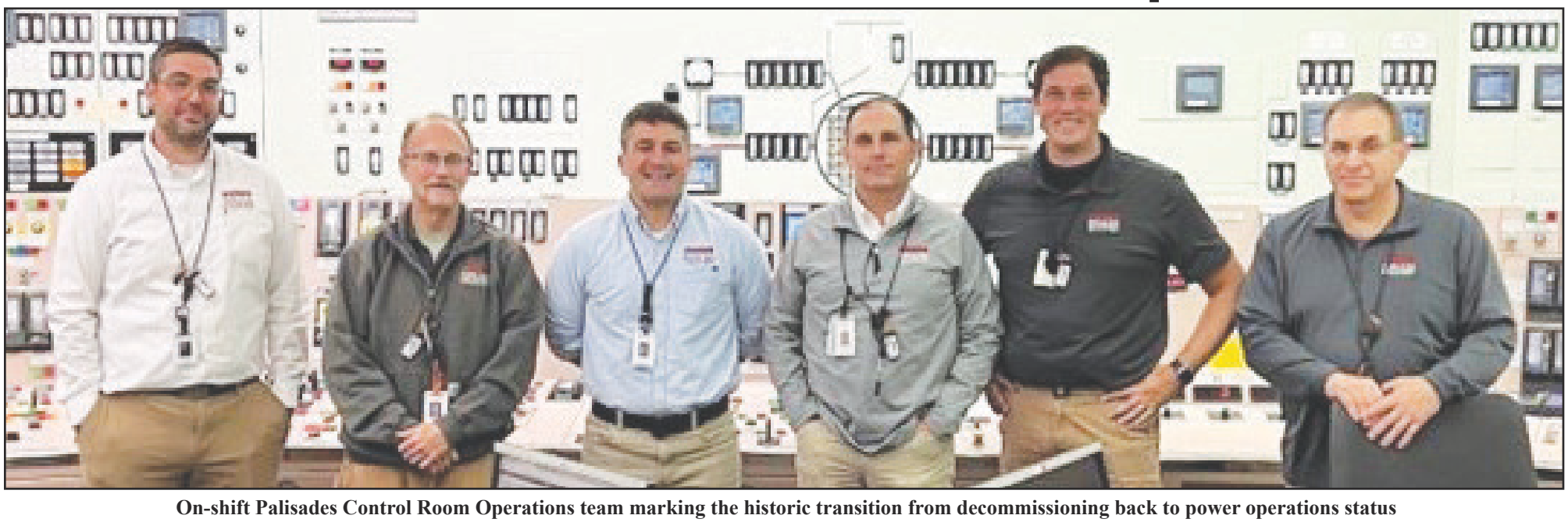
2ND FRONT PAGE

Historic First: Palisades transitions back to operations status



On-shift Palisades Control Room Operations team marking the historic transition from decommissioning back to power operations status

On Aug. 25, the Palisades Power Plant in Covert Township, officially transitioned from decommissioning to operations status under the oversight of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). This milestone follows the agency's July 24 approval of Holtec's licensing package to reauthorize power operations, making Palisades the first nuclear plant in U.S. history to move from decommissioning back to operations.

With this transition, Palisades is now authorized to receive nuclear fuel and restart the plant once allowable conditions are met within the approved Technical Specifications. The plant's Emergency Plan is fully active, supported by a trained and engaged Emergency Response Organization, which completed its FEMA/NRC-graded exercise with local and state partners last month. These steps position Palisades squarely in the final phase of restart preparations, as inspections, testing, and maintenance continue under rigorous independent federal oversight.

When Palisades returns to service, it will produce more than 800 megawatts of safe, clean, and baseload electricity – enough to power over 800,000 homes and businesses. Beyond strengthening Michigan's energy security, this achievement signals a historic first for the nuclear industry and reinforces the essential role of nuclear power in America's energy future.

Progress on Steam Generators and Turbine Systems

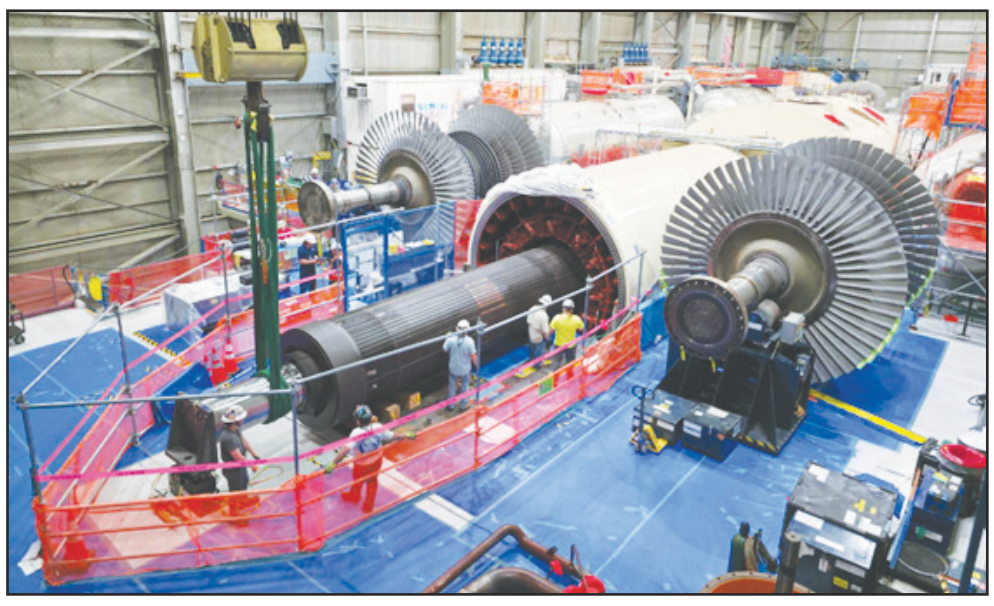
Before the plant officially resumes power operations, extensive ongoing project work will be completed. Recent progress includes the completion of Steam Generator primary side repairs via tube sleeving and plugging, with crews now advancing through deep cleaning of the Steam Generators' secondary systems to prepare the equipment for long-term safe and reliable operation.

Among the most impressive evolutions now underway is the reassembly of the Main Generator and Turbine, including the reinstallation of our 183-ton generator rotor after extensive rotor and stator inspections. This highly complex work required careful preparation, rigorous controls, and strict foreign material exclusion – all reflecting the strength, skill, and attention to detail of the Palisades team. Additional milestones include Emergency Diesel Generator maintenance and test runs and the installation of a refurbished Primary Coolant Pump motor.

Palisades is currently supported by more than 600 full-time nuclear professionals and over 1,000 skilled contractors, vendors, and suppliers, with a fully staffed team of licensed Operators already in place - all of which underscores the scale of effort driving this historic restart.

Paving the Way for SMR-300 Deployment

Looking ahead, the historic restart of Palisades will also pave the way for another first: the construction and commissioning of Holtec's first-of-its-kind SMR-300 small modular reactors at the site by the beginning of the next decade. To avoid disruption of ongoing restart work, on-site SMR activity to date has been limited to site preparation and geotechnical work on the land where the twin 300-megawatt units will be built. The SMRs will be delivered in partnership with Hyundai Engineering & Construction, builder of the recently completed four-reactor Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in the United Arab Emirates.



Crews reinstall the 183-ton Turbine Rotor after extensive inspection.

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VBC Sheriff's Deputy Weekly receives Life Saving Award

Van Buren County Sheriff's Deputy Gabe Weekly was recently honored with a Life Saving Award. "Deputy Weekly was instrumental involving a crash in Bloomingdale Township with the critical patient in saving her life. Once again, his actions show the professional staff we are blessed to have working at our office serving the citizens of Van Buren County," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Alyaysia Allen was recently honored with a Letter of Commendation. "Alyaysia is a resident of the county and was a huge help assisting deputies, fire fighters, and EMS in a tragic crash that she drove up on in Bloomingdale Township. "There is no doubt in my mind that Alayaysia has a bright future ahead of her," said Sheriff Abbott.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Uniform Response and detectives from the sheriff's office handled a shooting incident in the Decatur area. "Deputies were dispatched to what was called in as a drive by shooting. The victim was transported to the hospital for his injuries, the suspect/suspects involved fled the scene. Evidence was taken, interviews were conducted, and there is more investigation to be done. Currently, it appears that it's an isolated incident and no threat to the public. Anyone with any information on this is asked to call our office," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a larceny incident in Columbia Township. Three Pelican brand 10-foot kayaks were stolen from the Coffee Lake area. "Two of the kayaks are blue and white, the other one is orange and white. Anyone with information on this is asked to call our office," said Sheriff Abbott.

Our Marine Division handled a PWC (personal watercraft) in distress on Lake Michigan. "The call came in as a PWC that flipped and was taking on water. Marine deputies responded in our 21-foot boat and our jet ski. The PWC was located as was the rider who was safe aboard on another PWC. The riders and PWC (towed by deputies) were taken back to the harbor in which they were able to get the upside down PWC back upright once back at the boat launch," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence incident in the Village of Mattawan. "A child in the residence called dispatch advising that her parents were fighting. Deputies responded to the residence, investigated the incident, and arrested the aggressor for domestic assault," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a police officer standby for the caller to pick up property from a residence in Columbia Township. "Once the caller picked up the property, they were taken into custody on an outstanding warrant from another county," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a domestic violence incident in the City of Hartford. After investigating the incident, an individual was lodged for the domestic assault.

"Our SRD (School Resource Deputy) in Mattawan handled a domestic violence incident while suspect and victim were in the pickup line for their child. Dispatch received the call from the victim in which our SRD was right there. The male suspect was arrested for the incident," said Sheriff Abbott.

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Commissioners pay centennial birthday tribute to Bessie Boyd

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

PAW PAW – Van Buren County Commissioners on Aug 26, approved a proclamation of appreciation for Bessie Boyd, who will mark her centennial birthday on Sept. 14.

Commissioners extended "heartfelt congratulations and best wishes" to Mother Bessie Maxine Dye Boyd on her 100th birthday and recognized her as a cherished member of the community.

Boyd, who was born Sept. 14, 1925, in Hallsville, Texas, was the third of five children born to John Richard and Willie Mae Hester Dye. At age 8, Boyd's mother died. She was raised with her four sisters by her father and maternal grandparents, Mount and Rosie Newhouse Hester.

Boyd graduated from Galilee High School in Hallsville, Texas, in 1946, and as a young lady sojourned to South Haven, for a summer visit with her eldest sister and brother-in-law, Horace and Vernilla Arrington, where she began establishing a strong work ethic as a housekeeper at Liders Resort on South Haven's North Side.

At that time, South Haven was experiencing a boom in the resort industry, particularly among the Jewish community, earning the nickname "Catskills of the Midwest."

Boyd was employed by the Michigan Theater, working as a custodian alongside her brother-in-law, cleaning offices, ladies' bathrooms and balcony areas during the next five years.

Boyd united with the historic Emmanuel Community Church in 1947, under the leadership of Pastor Robert Fanning and developed lifelong and enduring relationships within the South Haven and surrounding communities. As a member of Emmanuel Community Church, she accepted the call and responsibility of serving in many capacities that included, church clerk and Sunday school teacher.

Boyd was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a Senior Citizen Volunteer companion, aiding with shopping, transportation and chores for the elderly.

Her quest to serve and support was not only recognized by her family and church but formally in the community on Women's History Day 2004; the honorable distinction of ordained deacon was confirmed by the Greater Harvest Full Gospel Church, LaPorte, Indiana in 2008, under the leadership of Pastor M.G. Hunt.

In 1952, it was "noised" in the community that the G.C. Murphy Company, downtown South Haven, was hiring "colored" clerks and Boyd was chosen as one of the first of three "colored" clerks hired by G.C. Murphy Company. This hiring relationship evolved into a time honoring, successful 34-year career of faithful service, ending in retirement only due to the failing health of her husband, Samuel Young.

Commissioners said, "Boyd bestows evidence to her family and community a legacy filled with numerous personal testimonies, two gold service watches, two trips to the G.C. Murphy corporate headquarters in Pennsylvania for employee recognition, of which one "unforgettable trip" was via a first-time airplane travel experience."

Commissioners further stated in the resolution, "Boyd has touched countless lives with her kindness, wisdom, and strength. Her life is a testament filled with accomplishments that demonstrate resilience, community involvement, love of family and community."

In another area, commissioners approved the appointment of David Gariepy as a county representative to the Remonumentation Program. The term will expire Dec. 31, 2026.

Following a public notification process, no applicants came forward to the unexpired term of former County Surveyor Lossie, who resigned from his elected position.

Pursuant to the Remonumentation Act, in the absence of an elected county surveyor, the Van Buren County Board of Commissioners is required to appoint a county representative to the County Remonumentation Program.

Following a second public notification process seeking applicants to fill the role of county representative, only one letter of interest was received, submitted by David Gariepy.

Commissioners said Gariepy expressed a willingness to serve in this capacity and is qualified to assist in fulfilling the obligations of the Remonumentation Program, including facilitating reimbursement from the State of Michigan for past services and submitting the County's Plan for future program funding.

Commissioners said the appointment of Gariepy will ensure the continuation and compliance of the county's Remonumentation Program, allowing necessary program administration, coordination, and oversight to proceed.

Commissioners adopted a resolution to abolish the Office of the County Surveyor, effective Dec. 31, 2028.

The Office of the County Surveyor in Van Buren County is currently vacant due to the resignation of the elected surveyor, and no applicants came forward following a public notification process to fill the unexpired term.

Van Buren County has determined that the Office of the County Surveyor no longer serves a functional need, as its only remaining responsibility pertains to the Remonumentation Program, which the board is separately addressing through the appointment of a county representative.

Due to the lack of public interest in the position, the limited statutory duties associated with the office, and the increasing number of counties that have chosen not to maintain an elected county surveyor, it is in the best interest of Van Buren County to formally abolish the Office of County Surveyor.

Abolishing this elected position will eliminate the need to include the office in future election ballots and will avoid potential confusion or administrative burden related to write-in candidacy or filing qualifications for a position that no longer holds distinct operational responsibility.

Commissioners approved the CIP project for BMS and HVAC controls to Andy Egan Company totaling $104,443.

The Buildings and Grounds Department initiated a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) for the upgrade of Building Management System (BMS) and HVAC controls.

Other bids were received from Trane Company for $211,193, and SBS Building Services for $240,000.

Commissioners approved a request for out-of-state travel approval for Van Buren County Sheriff's Office Detective Chris Orr to attend the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) Cyber Investigations Course in Hoover, Alabama, from Sept. 22-26. The course, sponsored by the United States Secret Service, provides law enforcement officers with foundational and advanced knowledge in cybercrime investigations, including investigative tactics, digital evidence collection, network operations, and criminal use of darknet technologies and cryptocurrencies.

The training and associated travel expenses are fully funded through the NCFI/USSS Grant and will not require any additional funding or reimbursement from the county budget.

Attendance on this course will enhance the county's capacity to investigate and respond to cyber-related criminal activity and is aligned with the professional development goals of the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office.

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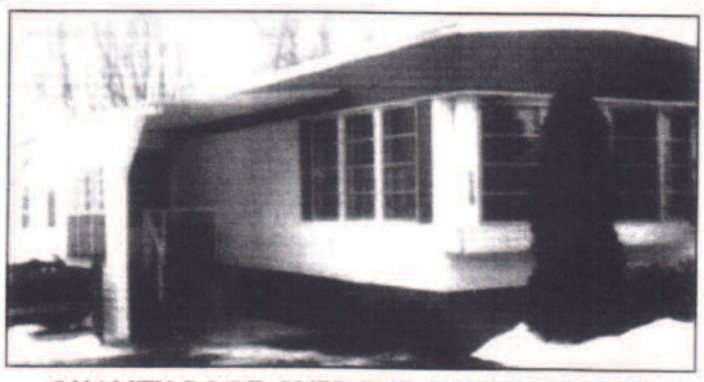
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Ox Roast draws large crowds to Lawrence

continues from page 1

Courier-Leader photos/ Paul Garrod

Mary and Andy Muday served as Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming Parade Grand Marshals on Monday, Sept. 1.

The ox mascot for the Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming festival was displayed Monday, Sept. 1, during the annual Labor Day Parade.

This vintage, Minneapolis Moline U, was one of several parade entries Monday, Labor Day, in Lawrene, during the Ox Roast & Homecoming Parade.

The Lawrence High School Marching Band was one of several participants in Monday's, Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming festival parade.

The Lawrence United Methodist Church held its annual Chicken Dinner on Labor Day during the Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming festival. Helping to cook the chicken were, from left, Brandon Garrod, Tim Nicholas, Warren Sell and Steve Daniel.

The Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming festival saw 60 vehicles take part Sunday, Aug. 30, in the Car Show.

Paw Paw ventriloquist Brynn Cummings performed Saturday, Aug. 30, at the Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming festival.

This bicyclist made his way down the Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming parade route Monday, capturing the attention of parade watchers.

An Arts and Craft Show was held Aug. 30 and 31, during the Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming festival, held Labor Day weekend in Lawrence.

Marking 39 years, including COVID-19, National Pedal Pullers & Racers was honored Sunday, Aug. 31, for its nearly four decades of providing the popular event at the Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming. Shown from left, is Lawrence Ox Roast and Homecoming committee member Vernon Crippen, who has served as the committee chairperson for the event; Jerry Zahner, of National Pedal Pullers & Racers ; Lawrence Ox Roast & Homecoming Committee Chairperson, Phil Glennie; and Troy Zahner and his wife, Emili, both of National Pedal Pullers & Racers

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VIEWPOINT

Michigan's School Funding Stalemate Is a Disservice to Every Student

Here we go again. Another budget cycle, another bitter fight in Lansing over how to fund our schools. This year's stalemate feels particularly sharp, with both sides dug in and unwilling to budge. Meanwhile, the people who bear the brunt of this dysfunction are not the lawmakers making speeches, but the students, teachers, and families who depend on the state's education system.

At the heart of the dispute is a fundamental question: How should Michigan spend its education dollars? Democrats, led by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, have pushed for broad-based increases to per-pupil funding, along with targeted programs like free school meals, early childhood education, and expanded mental health support. They argue that every child, no matter their ZIP code, deserves access to a full and fair education.

Republican lawmakers counter with concerns about fiscal sustainability and fairness. They favor a more restrained budget, with dollars steered more narrowly toward struggling schools or specific programs rather than blanket increases across the board. They argue that simply pouring more money into the system doesn't guarantee results and that accountability measures must accompany spending.

Both arguments have merit. Michigan's school performance data is troubling—reading and math proficiency rates have stagnated or declined, particularly since the pandemic. Teacher shortages are acute across the state. Rural districts are struggling to keep schools open five days a week. Yet Detroit and other urban districts face an entirely different set of challenges, from crumbling infrastructure to concentrated poverty. A one-size-fits-all funding model risks missing the mark, but so does an approach that starves the system of the resources it needs to function.

What makes this stalemate so frustrating is that there is room for compromise. A balanced solution would provide a meaningful across-the-board per-pupil increase—ensuring every student benefits—while also targeting additional dollars to the districts facing the most severe challenges. This would recognize the diverse realities of Michigan schools, from the Upper Peninsula to Grand Rapids to Detroit.

But instead of negotiating toward that middle ground, Lansing is treating education like a political chess match. Each side digs in for partisan advantage, hoping to score points with their base, while superintendents across the state are left waiting for answers. Budgets can't be finalized, hiring decisions are delayed, and families have no clarity about the programs their children will have access to in the fall.

This uncertainty is more than an inconvenience, it's real harm. Students only get one shot at third grade, or ninth grade, or senior year. When a district can't hire enough teachers, when extracurriculars are cut, when mental health counselors aren't funded, those opportunities are gone forever. A child who falls behind this year may never fully catch up.

The stakes are even higher when you consider Michigan's long-term economic future. Employers consistently cite education and workforce readiness as top concerns. If Michigan wants to attract businesses, grow its economy, and keep young families here, it must provide a world-class education system. That won't happen if funding remains a political football.

It's worth remembering that Michigan was once a national leader in education. For decades, our schools were a point of pride, producing a highly skilled workforce that powered the state's economic engine. But in recent years, our performance has slipped compared to other states. Reversing that decline requires more than tinkering at the margins—it requires sustained investment, innovation, and a willingness to put children ahead of politics.

I guess you could say that about most states. Public education is not what it used to be. The United States, depending on who does the ranking, is any where from 12th to 30th in the world. That simply put is unacceptable.

So what's the solution? The current stalemate makes clear that Lansing has lost sight of the mission to make public education better. Lawmakers need to reset their priorities. Compromise isn't a sign of weakness—it's a recognition that education is too important to be held hostage to ideology. Michigan students don't get a do-over on their education. Neither should lawmakers get away with kicking the can down the road.

Every day this fight drags on is another day lost for our kids. The legislature and governor must come together, find common ground, and deliver the funding our schools need. And they must do it now. Heck their deadline was July 1. It's already September. I implore our lawmakers to compromise and fund our public schools, now!

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
■ PUBLISHER ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Left keeps spinning facts to suit their progressive agenda

Dear Editor,

I have previously mentioned the left's continual gaslighting of the American public. While presenting themselves as victims or defenders of our liberties they are actually the perpetrators of the national decay we currently experience. Rather than presenting the facts regarding the Hamas October 7th massacre of peaceful unarmed Jewish concertgoers or the deranged transgender that murdered two children and wounded 18 others in Minneapolis the left spins the facts to best support their progressive agenda. At the cost of facts and truth.

A good friend just forwarded me a post from the Van Buren County Democrat's Facebook page displaying their protest signs created for Monday's Lawrence Ox Roast Parade. As expected, instead of participating in the community's traditional Labor Day celebration they use it as an opportunity for angry protest.

As a rule, I dismiss the petulant, illogical rantings of the new democrats. But I find gaslighting fundamentally evil. Let's review a few of these signs:

No Kings Since 1776: Obama felt that our constitution was a negative document and fundamentally flawed, needing to be revised to expand the power of the federal government, which never works well for the citizens. Both he and Biden weaponized the federal government against American citizens instead of foreign threats by circumventing our constitution and installing the most communist, anti-Americans ever employed in government positions.

Saving Democracy…: Not to beat a dead horse but our nation is a constitutional republic, not a democracy. The only reason for the left to insist on misrepresenting this is to intentionally gaslight those not paying attention. Once people think our nation is a democracy then the liberals can justify their bulling of those who don't agree with them. That is how democracies function.

The Rule of Law Protects us all: Seriously, and they can state this with a straight face? Obama, Hillary, Halder, Biden, Fauci, Garland, Harris, Pelosi, Schiff and far too many more to mention lied under oath, conspired and participated in various financial malfeasance all to promote their own political and financial agendas. All are criminal acts.

Liberty and Justice for all: That is unless one objects to the left's ideology. In that case you can, and many where, imprisoned for peacefully and legally praying near abortion clinics or parents speaking out at public school board meetings. And let's not forget the Covid debacle and those prosecuted and financially ruined for refusing to close their businesses, wear masks or subject themselves to unproven vaccines. Not to mention those arrested and imprisoned, without due process, for being on or near our nation's Capital grounds January 6, 2021. The lefts abuse of power over the past 16 years will be remembered as some of the most egregious acts of despotism against American citizens in our nation's history to date.

1 in 4 Michiganders rely on Medicaid No Cuts: Let this one sink in, 1 in 4 what's wrong with this picture? Medicaid was established for the government to financially assist those who are unable to support themselves. Illegal aliens and those able-bodied people unwilling to work were not the intended beneficiaries of this program. And those who are deceased, well that kind of speaks for itself, or at least it should. This may be a successful program to buy democratic voters but is not deserving of taxpayer funding.

Fight for Veterans! They fought for U.S.: This one is one of the most offensive to me. If our nation's care for our veterans was not inadequate before, the Biden administration and new democrats saw nothing wrong with diverting medical services, facilities and budget from our Veterans Services to support illegal aliens. And had Kamala Harris been elected the VA would most likely have already kicked many more veterans to the curb without a second thought.

The liberals have reached a point of pathological gaslighting in hopes that if they continue to tell lies loudly enough someone will believe them.

We have the opportunity to mend much of the damage inflicted on our nation by liberals who have no moral compass or respect for America. Recognize that to date the new democrats offer no thoughtful, practical or moral solutions for any of our republic's ills. What happened to all the joy the liberals spoke of? Once again, they fail to display any community support or positivity. Only anger, bitterness and bad manners.

John R. Young

Left uses projection, hypocrisy to spin yarns

To the Editor:

Recent letters (7 and 21 August) to the Courier-Leader have been written by a historical revisionist who used a definition of "projection" to project his own delusion on your readers. In the same breath he criticized the Trump administration for "hypocrisy" and then spun several yarns—some, admittedly, with hints of truth—hoping to get folks to believe his "bait and switch" screeds.

Confusing "democracy" and "republic" makes it obvious that the writer is either ignorant, or purposefully distorting the government we have, or that he has heard the shouts to "save our democracy" and "No Kings!" so many times that he has been brainwashed. These shouts are loaded with both projection and hypocrisy—and under-appreciated privilege.

Let me make it easy to understand what "projection" means in just two words: Hillary Clinton. And "hypocrisy" can be defined in two words: Joe Biden.

If our socialist/progressive neighbors have been paying attention to any news sources outside of the left-complicit network media, they might be aware of recent disclosures of long-suspected treason perpetrated since at least 2016 by Democrats starting with Obama and crawling its way down into the depths of our CIA, FBI, IRS and DOJ. When the Hillary Clinton team chose to foist the lies that Donald Trump was in cahoots with the Putin regime, THAT WAS A CASE OF PROJECTION, as they, in fact, had been working with the Russian bad guys for many years. Look up Uranium One, a scandal that was investigated by our very corrupt and biased FBI, for one example of projected duplicity.

The Steele Dossier maliciously and falsely accused Trump of watching Moscow prostitutes urinate on a bed once occupied by Obama. This was a Clinton paid for bundle of real hypocrisy, real lies and misinformation. The fact that Clinton treasonously destroyed all of her mishandled classified documents--for which she has never been held to account--is reason enough to believe in her projection of Trump's so-called misbehavior. Recent disclosures reveal how the FBI--then run by deceitful James Comey who did not pursue charges against Clinton for her treachery or of the Clinton's misbehavior in Uranium One—had been using its resources to destroy Trump. One would expect a bit of caution before accusing Trump or Republicans of projection or hypocrisy.

Remember when pictures of kids in cages at the border were reported to be taken on Trump's watch when in fact those were pictures taken during the Obama regime? Was that projection? The fate of 45,000 Ukrainian children kidnapped by the Russians is now big network news as an end to that unnecessary war is being negotiated, as it rightly should be, but where were and where are the tears for 10 times that number of illegal alien children snuck across our border and now unaccounted for? We were told that the border was the most secure ever while about 20 million illegals were encouraged and helped into the US. Hypocrisy?

The two-faced compliance by our privileged oligarchy and politicians during the Covid debacle is more evidence of hypocrisy. Our governor avoided her own lockdown orders to fly to Florida, and California's governor dined in luxury contradicting his lockdown orders. Big box stores were allowed to remain open while small businesses, barber shops and pizza parlors were forced to close. Amazon did VERY well. Kids were sent home from closed schools despite early evidence that they were rarely harmed by the virus, while the vulnerable elderly were packed into assisted living homes. We were promised that an incompletely vetted mRNA inoculation would not only prevent the Covid, but it would prevent its spread. What did we learn from that? More importantly, what did our handlers learn? How will we be manipulated involuntarily and undemocratically the next time? With Fauci and his minions never held to account for their lies and hypocrisy, there WILL be a next time.

Woman are encouraged by the blowhorns on the Left to "shout their abortions" because the science of life and the ethics of a humane culture must be subordinate to the so-called inconvenience of a new, beautiful human being. Pregnancy resource centers are being sued by abortion providers in Massachusetts because saving the life of a baby is bad for business and their bottom line. Do you think we need a stronger word for hypocrisy?

Why are surgical mutilations of gonads, breasts and phalluses in youngsters called "gender affirming care" when the word "care" is what one does to try to help a confused kid get better, not irreversibly worse? Is it not hypocritical to pretend that men can compete fairly as make-believe women in sports? What do you call someone who thinks it is OK for your daughters to share locker rooms with well-hung males? Hypocrites? Perverts? Both?

The examples are endless, but most revealing of projection hypocrisy are the constant reports from folks with destructive Trump Derangement Syndrome who project that our current president is suffering from ill health and dementia. Without evidence! The same hypocrites watched Joe Biden bump into himself for four years of confusion while they declared he was the "Best Joe Ever" and then they let Kamala Harris pretend she had the licks to run America. She would have run America--into the ground, for sure. Will we ever know who was holding the nuclear football while Sleepy Joe was taking another nap? Who was running the autopen non-stop? Who approved a record number of presidential pardons? Who was really running our country?

As a retired military man with over 22 years of service, I must share how comforted I am to see that the woke generals and admirals who were driving our readiness into the ground are being relieved, and that recruiting of new troops is approaching record numbers. A consequence of that was reported by my neighbor whose daughter recently completed bootcamp in the Navy at Great Lakes. Because there are so many recruits, her next level of training is delayed several months because the schools are so full. Thanks to Pete Hegseth and Donald Trump and THANKS TO ALL OF US WHO STILL BELIEVE AMERICA IS THE GREATEST COUNTRY and who have not given up on it. With a strong military we are much less likely to have to go to war. The hypocrisy of another debacle like a humiliating Afghanistan style withdrawal is also avoidable. Once again, no heads rolled for that perfidy, but if charges are eventually brought against the traitorous Mark Milley, please do not scream that Trump is just getting even, taking revenge.

Justice for Afghanistan, Covid, the Russia Hoax and the border nightmares must be served. If not, America will become a memory and the commies will prevail.

I look forward to reading any letter that rebuts the above blatant and inexcusable examples of true hypocrisy while I continue to be vigilant and prepared for the next wave of lies, misinformation and historical revisionism that is the communist's first order of battle. Read Antonio Gramsci for verification of this corrupting strategy.

And God (please continue to) Bless America!

Jack Bley, Paw Paw

OBITUARY

Tonda Lynn Mulligan

Tonda Lynn Mulligan, 63, of Blissfield, MI, formerly of Paw Paw, passed away on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025, after an over eight-year battle with progressive supranuclear palsy. She was born on May 10, 1962, the beloved daughter of Fred and the late Lila Dillenbeck.

Tonda cherished her family above all, especially her daughter and grandchildren. She enjoyed a long career as a secretary and found joy in seasonal camping, tending to her flower gardens, and caring for her pets.

She is survived by her daughter, Natasha (Jared) Klump of Blissfield, MI; grandchildren Emerald and Easton Klump of Blissfield, MI; her father, Fred Dillenbeck of Lawrence, MI; siblings Curt (Lori) Dillenbeck of Lawrence, MI, Betty (Todd) Terry of Paw Paw, MI, Robin Kidd of Grand Rapids, MI, and Rebecca Dillenbeck of Kalamazoo, MI; step-children, Christopher and Brianna Mulligan of Jackson, MI; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Lila Dillenbeck; sister, Marlys Boysen Richardson, and brother-in-law, Chris Boysen.

Tonda's love for her family, along with her warmth and perseverance, will be remembered and cherished by all who knew her.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Friday, Sept. 5, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Adams Funeral Home, 502 W. Michigan Ave., Paw Paw. A memorial service will begin at 3 p.m.

Share a memory or sign the online guestbook at adamspawpaw.com

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Hunt's Hillside Family Farms receives Farm Bureau award

Hunt's Hillside Family Farms and the Hunt Family of Lawton recently received the 2025 Van Buren County Farm Bureau Farm Stewardship Award. From left, Van Buren County Farm Bureau President, Matt Nilson; Susan Hunt; Coleman (CJ) Hunt; Payton Hunt; Jim Hunt and Van Buren County Farm Bureau Board member, Gene Sahr. Photo courtesy/Sarah Pion

Farm Bureau recognizes several local agents

Membership writers for the Van Buren County Farm Bureau were recently recognized for the 2024-2025 membership year. From left, Van Buren County Farm Bureau President, Matt Nilson; Key Society Award Winner, Farm Bureau Insurance Agent Derek Lietzau; Van Buren County Farm Bureau Board Member, Cheryl Sullins; Van Buren County Farm Bureau Board Member, Kristin Kubiszak; Michigan Farm Bureau District 1 Director, Larry Walton; and Van Buren County Farm Bureau Board Member, Mike Alaga. Photo courtesy/Sarah Pion

SH Center for the Arts to hold ReArt Sale

By James Windell

The South Haven Center for the Art ReArt Sale is perfect for two groups of people: Those who are ready to part with their art and those who want to buy new art.

Jenna Myny

ReArt Sale 2025 takes place Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 4, 5 and 6 at the South Haven Center for the Arts (SHCA).

"This is a fundraiser that we launched in 2019," says Kerry Hagy, Executive Director of SHCA. "We had done something like this before, but then we started doing it as an annual event."

Hagy says that SHCA members and friends find art in their home they are no longer able to display. "So, they donate those things to us. There are some really beautiful things this year, but our members really do cherish these item, but for one reason or another they are no longer able to display them."

Hagy says that the items that will be for sale this year include paintings, lithographs, vases, ceramics, jewelry, photographs and even lamps. "We have items donated from the Water Street Glassworks in Brenton Harbor," notes Hagy. "This is beautiful, high-end glass from local regional artists. Also, there will be paintings and work from local artist Diane Lynne Cheeseman, who was one of our members before her recent passing. There will be some art that she and her husband collected, too."

Several dozen copper plate etchings by the renowned regional artist Philip Thompson have been donated by his wife. Thompson, whose work can be found in several notable collections, specialized in the architecture of the original major league stadiums. "His engravings will appeal to baseball fans," Hagy says.

In addition, there will be holiday items from all holidays, art supplies, and art books.

ReArt Sale 2025 begins on Thursday, September 4, from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm. It continues on Friday, September 5, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, and ends on Saturday, September 6th, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, at South Haven Center for the Arts 600 Phoenix Street, South Haven.

For more information, visit the SHCA website at www.southhavenarts.org

Water damage repaired at courthouse

During this summer, the Van Buren County Courthouse has undergone restoration to repair water damage that occurred on the building. Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

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Last show for 85-year-old artist?

By James Windell

A new exhibit of her art works at the Blue Start Art Collective may be her last show.

That's what 85-year-old Dorris Akers said in a recent interview about her show at the Blue Start Art Collective in South Haven.

After producing art ever since she was in high school, Akers, who has been a vital part of the South Haven area art community says the 1960s, hints that that she may have run out of things to say.

"I don't know that for sure," she said sitting in the new art gallery. "I started when I was really young."

Then she adds: "But I will have to do something creative."

Doing something creative has been a dominant theme in her life.

"My mother was a drawer, and my father had a woodshop, so I was around creativity my whole life," she says. "Then, I went to the Art Institute in Chicago."

"Believe it or not," she says, "I started out in fashion. That was because I was always sewing my own clothes and my sister's clothes, too. I even made wedding dresses, so I was sure that that's what I should do." However, her career in fashion design didn't last long she remarks, "Because I found it to be horribly, horribly boring." Instead, she switched to fine art and studied printmaking.

Akers was born in western Kentucky in 1939, graduated from high school in Dalton, Georgia and went to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, earning a BFA in drawing, painting and printmaking in 1962.

"After graduation, I began exploring various craft mediums: weaving and fiber, leather and shoemaking," she says. "I taught some of these subjects in art centers and at the Chicago Academy of Art and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago."

In her show at the Blue Star Art Collective, there will be 18 pieces by Akers. "They're all old found objects," she says. "Most are 3-D and some are wall pieces."

Her fascination with found objects began in the 1960s after seeing an exhibition at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. "Single man-made objects were presented as art exactly as found with the evidence of age and wear having changed them," she explains. "After that I began to see the visual world in a different way – especially as it relates to art and aesthetics. Everything became a potential design element."

Although she came to South Haven in the 1960s, she spent a couple of years in France before settling permanently in this area in 1977. In 1980, she began working in non-profit arts and museum administration, including a stint as Director of the Michigan Maritime Museum, a career that lasted for 30 years until her retirement in 2010.

Dorris Aker's show will open on September 5 and run through October 4, 2025, at the Blue Start Art Collective, 338 N. Blue Star Highway, South Haven. The gallery is open Wednesdays to Sundays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information, contact Megam Bennett at 616-216-7292 or follow the gallery on Instagram at @ thebluestarcollective

Country singer to perform at First Congregational Church

By James Windell

Country singer and songwriter Lexi Adams will be performing in concert at the First Congregational Church in South Haven on Sunday, September 7, 2025.

Although this will be her first concert in the Summer Concert Series, Adams is no stranger to South Haven.

She says that she frequently plays her guitar and sings in and around the South Haven area. However, in this upcoming concert she will be performing with her husband, keyboardist Calvin Hinds.

"I love being able to play with my husband," Adams said in a recent phone interview from her home in Kalamazoo. "That's a really fun experience. We always have so much fun when we play together and that's what people seem to love the most – when he and I play together."

Since she sees herself as a country singer, Adams will be playing songs by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Patsy Cline. However, she also does her version of songs by the Eagles, Janis Joplin, and Tom Petty. In addition, she will throw in a few of her original songs.

As a songwriter, Adams knew at a young age that she wanted to write songs. Growing up in Plainwell, Michigan, a few townships east of South Haven, she was exposed to contemporary church music by going to church with her mother who was in the choir. However, her mother didn't listen to country music and Adams had to discover that on her own.

"When we got cable TV,

I started watching CMT, Country Music Television," she recalls. "I just got hooked because I would watch these music videos and I fell in love with country music. I would tell myself that that would be me one day. I would be making these music videos."

Her country music influences included Faith Hill ("I loved Faith Hill!"), Shania Twain, the Dixie Chicks, Trisha Yearwood, and SHeDaisy ("I also loved SHeDaisy!").

After she graduated from high school, she went to Belmont University, in Nashville, to major in songwriting. "It was my dream to pursue music," she says about her experience in Nashville. "Unfortunately, unless you have an in, it is really hard to make it in Nashville."

But there were many positives from her years at Belmont and in Nashville. "I met a lot of people," she says, "and being with other incredible songwriters, people who thought outside the box, I definitely sharpened my craft by being around people who were better songwriters than I was." Also, she toured briefly with a contemporary Christian band and that led to her first two albums. Both her first album and the second one which she is just finishing feature her own original songs.

Once she returned to Michigan from Nashville, she began getting opportunities to perform. "About 7 years ago I played my very first show at a venue in Kalamazoo," she says,. "and then I started getting other venues. I thought this was really great and new to me. In Nashville you don't get paid to play."

Lexi Adams will display her rich vocal timbre, powerful yet gentle vocal techniques, and the passion with which she performs at the Summer Concert Series on Sunday, September 7 at 3:00 pm at the First Congregational Church, 651 Phoenix Street in South Haven. Tickets are $20 at the door and for more information call Diane and Lisa at 269-637-3804 (opt. 5).

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Paw Paw athlete eyes strong senior season

Whether it be in hurdles or basketball, Mecenzie Allen has been quite an athlete for Paw Paw.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Mecenzie Allen had a solid spring season for Paw Paw in track and field and can't wait until her senior season next spring.

Her specialities at Paw Paw were 100 hurdles, long jump, high jump and 4x1.

"I n the hurdles, I finally broke 17 seconds after dealing with a broken rib all season and my back being messed up," she said. "It was very exciting for me. Last season I was dealign with a broken rib from baskeball season. I missed state by one inch (in the high jump) and that was not very exciting, but I did PR at 5-1."

Allen considered the high hurdles as her best event "because I'm so consistent in them. (The key) is not to be afraid to go faster and try some new techniques."

Technique also is the key to being a good high jumper, she she said.

Allen has been in track since the seventh grade. Hopes for 2026 would be to go to state in high jump and hurdles. High jump may be her best bet.

"It so hard to cut time in the hurdles," she said. "One second is a lot."

Allen also plays basketball and does sideline cheer.

He has played varsity as a sophomore and as a junior. She has been all-conference and honorable mention all-region.

"We won districts and I played trough the district game through a broken rib," she said. "There was some pain. I pushed throughout it I didn't want to sit and wanted to get going. I wanted to play in those games. I'm healed now. It's OK."

Allen plays forward and a post in basketball. "Our coaches is trying to get me to play all positions," she said. "Rebounds and putbacks (are a strength)."

Allen plays for a travel team that went to Louisville for an appearance during the summer.

"I'm trying to be a better teammate for my team," she said, "and try to be better overall."

For next year, "we did lose two very valuable players but this group of girls was together before middle school. We have a strong connection and we'll do good. We have a high skill level and we have to put it to work."

Gobles runners off to good start

Libby Smith is off to a great start for Gobles'cross country team.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — Gobles runners competed recently at the Baker Woods Invite at Hesperia.

The Tigers made the two-hour drive to Hesperia on Wednesday afternoon to compete at the Baker Woods Invite.

The girls took home second-place honors and the boys placed third.

"It is perhaps one of the most challenging courses in the state of Michigan offering steep hills and sharp turns through the forest," coach Marc Kline said. "Both teams ran with grit."

For the boys, Libby Smith won with a time of 20:49, Ava DeYoung ran 25:47, Addison Tomsic 28:41, Madison Cooley 29:45, Alyssa Sparks 31:12 and on the boys side Fletcher Amos 21:09, Cole Ringel 21:23, Cole Cannon 24:12, David Sager 24:44, Titus Sager 24:45 and Eason Piper 25:46.

On Aug. 22, Gobles ran at Distance Under the Lights at Grand Rapids South Christian

"Friday Night Lights took on a little different meaning," Kline said. "It wasn't on the grid iron but rather all over the GR South Christian Campus. Lights were brought in and the 5k course was lit for the competitors and spectators. At the start of each race fireworks crackled in the background and a mass of people milled around the facility.

"The first of eight races started at sunset. It was an electric atmosphere with glow in the dark paint on arms and faces, and glow sticks adorned around necks and wrists as they raced. The boys finished 18th among the 28 schools and the girls finished sixth out of 28 in their race in the Sunset Division. It was a great evening of racing."

Libby Smith was 2nd, Lauren Shaffer 10th, Ava DeYoung 36th, Madison Cooley 38th, Addison Tomsic 119th and Alyssa Sparks 130th. On the boys side David Sager 71st, Cole Ringel 82nd, Fletcher Amos 90th, Cole Canon 185th, Titus Sager 228th, and Easton Piper 235th place.

"Between the two teams we set nine season records and two personal records," Kline said.

Gobles football has outstanding opening-game win

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Gobles opened with a tough week one matchup vs. Climax-Scotts for the Tiger Tribute game and Gobles won 54-32.

This was only the second time in program history that the two teams have met, with the first time being a Gobles victory in 1959.

Gobles opened the game with a commanding drive, capped off by a 45-yard rushing TD by Aiden Beam. On the ensuing drive by the Panthers, the Gobles defense played with physicality and a sense of urgency, stopping them on all four downs.

Gobles then proceeded to finish the first quarter with an 18-yard rushing touchdown and another 52-yard rushing touchdown by Nathan Ray.

In the second quarter, freshman Case Lord asserted himself and tallied a 1-yard rushing TD and a 10-yard passing touchdown to Brett Ivester.

"The defense allowed one touchdown, which resulted in a 40-8 score going into halftime. In the second half, Climax-Scotts made some crucial adjustments and made a strong comeback," Gobles coach Greg Eichler said.

The Panthers were able to cut the lead to 48-32, but it was the Tigers who responded when it counted and got a stop on defense after a huge pass break up by Beam on a jump ball. The Tigers then finished their last offensive drive with a 4-yard touchdown scamper by Lord.

Leading the Tigers on offense was Lord who rushed for 127 yards on 19 carries, including three rushing touchdowns, two two-point conversions, and one passing touchdown. Steven Juarez added 113 yards rushing, while Ray totaled 138 yards rushing, 2 rushing touchdowns, and two two-point conversions.

Defensively the Tigers were led by Devin Doorlag who had 10 tackles, one quarterback pressure, and a half sack.

"Juarez played a strong overall game with nine tackles, one pass breakup, and one interception. Beam and AJ Salinas both added eight tackles, while Lord finished with six tackles and one pass breakup, Eichler said.

Gobles now moves on to week two Friday at Eau Claire.

Paw Paw football drops opener

Paw Paw coach Dennis Strey will take his team to Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills on Friday night.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — Paw Paw sustained a 19-7 nonleague loss to Big Rapids to open its football season on Thursday at home.

Paw Paw had defeated Big Rapids the past two seasons to open the year at 1-0. On Friday, Paw Paw had 176 yards of offense with one passing touchdown from Ryan Lasinski to Brennan Kennedy for 3 yards. Ben Miller had 129 rushing yards and 22 receiving yards, six solo tackles, two assisted tackles and an interception. Ben Newell had six tackles, six assisted tackles and one tackle for loss.

Big Rapids was led Wyatt Skiera with 83 yards rushing and a touchdowns and 84 receiving yards by Owen Craven with two catches for 56 yards and two touchdowns.

Big Rapids quarterback Cole Haist passed for 84 yards on four completions for two touchdowns, one interception and 42 rushing yards. Big Rapids' defense had a forced fumble recovery and two interceptions.

"I thought we played a solid overall game," Big Rapids coach Mike Selzer said. "We created turnovers that kept us in the game. The defense did a great job of winning touchdowns. A couple of times they had drives but we had a bend but don't break (success). I'm real proud of our defense. There's a few changes we'll have to look at making to make sure we have everything dialed in moving forward. But overall, I was happy with a win for the first game but we definitely saw some things we have to work on. I'm real proud of the guys for staying with it."

The victory against a quality team like Paw Paw "was really big for us, especially with the physicality in play that they have," Selzer said. "Our defense played really well tonight. Up front we did OK." Paw Paw plays at Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills on Sept. 5.

South Haven, Mattawan fall in openers

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven's football team opened at home on Aug. 28 and sustained a 35-9 loss to Dowagiac.

South Haven coach Mark Eddy said the leading tackler was Jacob Bosma with tackles.

August Zoet opened the scoring with a 30-yard field goal.

Quin Hayes, scored a 25-yard touchdown run. The two-point conversion failed. Hayes had six tackles.

Ryler Rolland contributed five tackles.

"Crio Haqq had four tackles and played with a tremendous motor," Eddy said. Congrats to Duane Davis and his Chieftan squad. They played a solid football game."

South Haven will play on Sept. 5 at Holland.

Vicksburg 41, Mattawan 14

Mattawan lost at Vicksburg on Aug. 28 in the season opener.

Leading Rusher- Devin Purcell- 50 yards.

Leading passer- Nolan Jominy 70 yards passing, leading tackler- Nick Deyoung- five tackles,

"We had a great showing from Patrick Dougherty on offense and special teams,"Mattawan coach Jerry Schultz said. "Patrick had 70 yards reception with one touchdown. Patrick also scored on a 95-yard kick off return."

It's a big day Friday when Mattawan is home

Mattawan has its first game on the new turf.

"We look forward to putting a better showing in front of ourcommunity on the brand new turf field," Schultz said.

Paw Paw tennis players off to good start

By John Raffel
Correspondent

Paw Paw hosted DeWitt and Bridgman in the first home boys tournament of the year recently.

"It was a great day of tennis and DeWitt and Paw Paw were very evenly matched with 4 of the fights going the distance into a 3rd set," a Paw Paw team, spokesperson said.

Dewitt - 5, Paw Paw - 3, Singles: No. 1 - Santino Jacobson, Dewitt def. Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw, 6-0 , 6-0. No. 2 - Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw def. Andrew Artuso, Dewitt, 1-6 , 6-2 , 10-7. No. 3 - Drake Stipcak, Dewitt def. Zach Mahan, Paw Paw, 7-5 , 6-4 , 10-8. No. 4 - Will Grant, Dewitt def. Braden Schultz, Paw Paw, 6-1 , 6-0. Doubles: No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Rowan Page, Dewitt - Jack Williams, Dewitt, 6-2 , 2-6 , 10-5. No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Ethan Gardner, Dewitt - Davis LeFevre, Dewitt, 6-3 , 6-1. No. 3 - Josh Lutz, Dewitt - Brock Thaler, Dewitt def. Jacob Ameling, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw, 6-3 , 7-5 , (Jacob Ameling was subbing in for Bryn Carlsen) No. 4 - Dylan Filcek, Dewitt - Auden Lenneman, Dewitt def. Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw, 7-5 , 4-6 , 10-8.

The Red Wolves had a very strong showing against Bridgman

New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC) - 0, Paw Paw - 8, Singles: No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. default default, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 2-0 , 2-0. No. 2 - Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw def. Justus Rowland, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 6-1 , 6-1.

No. 3 - Zach Mahan, Paw Paw def. Charlie Hart, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 6-0 , 6-0. No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Tre Petersen, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 6-0 , 6-0. Doubles No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Brielle Rhew, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC) - Isaak Dzienis, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 6-0 , 6-1. No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Gunnar Hedahl, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC) - Vaughn Rhew, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 6-0 , 6-0. No. 3 - Jacob Ameling, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. default default, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC) - default DEFAULT, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 2-0 , 2-0. No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. default default, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC) - default DEFAULT, New Buffalo / Bridgman / Lake Michigan Catholic (LMC), 2-0 , 2-0.

Paw Paw open its dual matches this season playing host to Harper Creek.

" It was a solid night of play for the Red Wolves as we jumped out to an early 4-0 lead with a clean sweep of the doubles flights," Paw Paw coach Matt Bale said. "We lost a tough, well played match at 3rd Singles, but were able to close out the night with wins at 1st and 4th Singles and a 3rd Set Tiebreaker with at 2nd Singles."The Red Wolves move to 6-3 on the season and begin conference play next week with a trip to Niles.

Battle Creek Harper Creek - 1, Paw Paw - 7, Singles: No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. Logan Messenger, Battle Creek Harper Creek, 6-0 , 6-4 , No. 2 - Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw def. Quinten Valenzuela, Battle Creek Harper Creek, 7-6 (5), 2-6 , 10 No. 3 - Jake Schragg, Battle Creek Harper Creek def. Zach Mahan, Paw Paw, 6-2 , 6-4 / No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Charlie Cotts, Battle Creek Harper Creek, 6-1 , 7-6 (4),. Doubles: No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Travis Holmes, Battle Creek Harper Creek - Owen Goodwin, Battle Creek Harper Creek, 6-1 , 6-0 . No. 2 - Logan Wolfe, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Camden Graham, Battle Creek Harper Creek - Brady Channels, Battle Creek Harper Creek, 6-1 , 6-0 . No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Jacob Ameling, Paw Paw def. Aiden Hagelgans, Battle Creek Harper Creek - Codey Southfield, Battle Creek Harper Creek, 6-2 , 6-1 . No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Carson Gardner, Battle Creek Harper Creek - Colin Wendt, Battle Creek Harper Creek, 6-1 , 6-1

Lawrence football, volleyball teams fall

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE — Lawrence football coach Steve Raklovits is looking for his team to bounce back this week when it has its home opener on Sept 5 against Muskegon Heights Academy.

In the season opener on Aug. 28 against Fennville, Lawrence lost 60-6.

"We hustled and saw some things we need to work on," Raklovits said. "We ran the ball well, but need to improve on blocking. Fennville will be a handful, they have seniors leading the way, have a structured offense and a good defense.

"We will have to play smart and error free to be competitive."

Lawrence volleyball

LAWRENCE — Coach Anita Solis Robles volleyball team lost to Our Lady of the Lake in action on Aug. 25 by the scores of 25-10, 25-11, 25-5.

"Overall, I believe we started really strong and began to struggle later on," Robles said. "I believe our defense was incredible. We had many digs from our libero Colleen McCaw, but every player had at least one amazing dig from a hard hitter. Our only struggle was being aggressive on the net.

"Our defense was great, but we struggled to attack at the net. Given that we had such a young team, I think we did great, holding our own. The girls never gave up and went after every ball, and I believe that is such a huge improvement from last year. I can see great improvement from the returning players and our new players. I can confidently say we will continue to improve and become a strong team."

Lawrence's next game will be against Decatur, Sept. 4 at 6 p.m at Decatur High School.

Mattawan, Gobles runners win meets

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan won the boys and Gobles won the girls in the Southwest Michigan Rusterbuster Cross Country Invitational on August. 27 at Warner Camp.

Mattawan topped the 13-team boys field with 35 points while Gobles was ninth at 224 and South Haven 13th at 280.

Gobles won the girls meet at 74 ahead of Plainwell at 79. Mattawan was fifth at 124 and South Haven sixth at 154.

For the Mattawan boys, Marcel Stork was second (15:53.2), Owen Fisher third (16:00.2), Connor Wessel was seventh (16:52.5), Tanner Christensen was 14th (17:36.6) and Braeden Gildea 16th (17:38/2).

For Gobles, Cole Ringel was 29th (18:39.0), Fletcher Amos 31st (18:40.9), Levi Collins 45th (19:23.5), David Sager 66th (20:35.2) and Cole Cannon 75th (21:19.1).

For South Haven, Nolan Wiens was 33rd (18:50.20), Christian Prong was 41st (19:16.6), Jakin Prong 72nd (21:14.7), Javier Garcia 73rd (21:14.9) and Noah Foley 92nd (23:58.2).

For the Gobles girls, Libby Smith was medalist (18:24.8) while the second-place runner was 19:12.8. Also for Gobles, Lauren Shaffer was fifth (20:11.20), Ava DeYoung 12th (21:52.7), Madison Cooley was 20th (22:17.9) and Addison Tomsic 37th (24:14.5).

For Mattawan girls, Kate Barron was eighth (21:26.7), Natalie Barron 13th (22:00.9), Tana Drobeck 27th (22:47.2), Claire Yakiwchuk 31st (23:39.3), and Kinsley May in 45th (24:46.2).

For South Haven, Madisyn Lapinsi was 21st (22:23.1), Katherin Barajas 28th (23;06.6), Eveyn VanBrussel 36th (24:14.0), Erin Gordon 38th (24:18.2) and Kaelyn Adamson 83rd (28:46.2).

Mattawan women's varsity medalists- Kate Barron (8th) and Natalie Barron (13th).

Mattasan Men's varsity medalists- Marcel Stork (2nd), Owen Fisher (3rd), Connor Wessels (7th), Tanner Christensen (14th), Brady Gildea (16th), Trevor Nagra (18th), and Caleb Elwell (21st).

Mattawan women's JV medals - Julie Navratilova (3rd), Katelynn Knapp (16th), Brianna Bauler (17th), and Addalyn Roundhouse (24th).

Mattawan men's JV team- 1st with a team score of 16 points.

Mattawan men's JV medalists : Ben Ambs (2nd), Issac Fletcher (3rd), Nick Hakala (4th), Gavin Robbins (6th), John Travis (15th) and Grayson Field (23rd).

Next for Mattawan is the Lakeview Invitational Sept. 6.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Almena Township
SYNOPSIS
July 16, 2025

Almena Township Board meeting was held July 16, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
Attendance: Kelly Redmond, Tim Kloosterman, Mark Roman, Sandra Rickli, John Wagner, Scott Rueff and Joe Leduc
a. Motion passed to approve amended agenda
b. Motion passed to approve meeting minutes of June 18, 2025 as presented
c. Disbursements approved in the amount of $433,572.85
d. Sheriff's Dept./Mattawan Fire Dept. reports
e. Public comment offered
f. Reports by officers presented
g. Motion passed to contribute $7,200 to the Paw Paw Senior Center
h. Motion passed to approve the 2025 tax rate request
i. Motion passed to approve Resolution 2025-04 establishing a Township Improvement Revolving Fund
j. Motion passed to appoint Chris Rickli to the Board of Review
k. Public comment offered
l. Meeting adjourned 7:35pm
Sandra Rickli, Clerk, Almena Township

State of Michigan Probate Court
County of Van Buren
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF STEPHEN P. KOENIG, DECEASED
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
All Unknown Heirs
whose address(es) are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or aggected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE:
I have submitted a Notice of Intent to Request Informal Appointment of Personal Representative to Van Buren County Probate Court.
The actions you may take include upon paying a filing fee, filling a petition for formal proceedings to appoint a personal representative and/ or filling a application for informal appointment of yourself as personal representative provided you have a higher priority to be appointed and/ or contacting an attorney for assistant in representing you in any proceedings you with to file in the court.
August 27,2025
Attorney
Nicole M. Laruwe #P75562
7 West Square Lake Road
Bloomingfield Hills, MI 48302
248-648-1148
Pettitioner
Dan Frankfort
59 Chestnut Avenue
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
847-530-0458

State of Michigan Probate Court
Van Buren County
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
DECEDENT'S ESTATE
Case No. 2025-1095-DE
Estate of TERRY LEON PAYNE, deceased, Date of birth MARCH 28,1949
TO ALL CREDITORS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Terry Leon Payne, died January 23,2022 (1/23/2022).
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kaley Bellw personal representative, or to both the probate court at 212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, Mi 49079 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
August 27,2025
Attorney
Elizabeth Robinson #P84345
4341 S. Westnedge Ave,
Ste 1200
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
269-344-0700
Personal Representative
Kaley Bell
110 Poplar Street
Gobles, MI 49055
269-568-1884

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Macario Martinez Jr.; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 9/4/2025; Atty File #: 25-010366; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property.
A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Macario Martinez, Jr., a single man and Selenia Romero, a single woman, as joint tenants with right of survivorship, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Van Dyk Mortgage Corporation, Mortgagee, dated September 21, 2020 and recorded October 5, 2020 in Liber 1707, Page 222 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty-Eight and 8/100 Dollars ($129,528.08).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 2, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Township of Hartford, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
LOT 7, SPRINGDALE MANOR, AS RECORDED IN LIBER 5 OF PLATS, PAGE 27, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
57880 Springdale Dr, Hartford, Michigan 49057
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: September 4, 2025
File No. 25-010366
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(09-04)(09-25)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Elisa Solis; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/4/2025; Atty File #: 25-002484-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 49c of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, 1966 PA 346, MCL 125.1449c, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 02, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Elisa Solis and Horton Allen Stanfill, joint tenants Original Mortgagee: Union Home Mortgage Corp. Date of mortgage: June 17, 2019 Recorded on June 27, 2019, Liber 1685, on Page 936, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Michigan State Housing Development Authority Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-One and 69/100 Dollars ($106,551.69) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lot 3 and 4 in Block F in Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records.
Commonly known as 115 E Bronson St, Decatur, MI 49045
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 125.1449v, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 125.1449v(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Michigan State Housing Development Authority Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1570986
(09-04)(09-25)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Michael Mascarello; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 8/14/2025; Atty File #: 456499F09; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Michael Mascarello, an unmarried man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as trustee for Securitized Asset Backed Receivables LLC Trust 2007-BR4, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-BR4
Date of Mortgage: January 26, 2007
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 12, 2007
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $68,226.43
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Lawton, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 4, Willow Beach, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 1 of Plats on Page 25, Van Buren County, Michigan Register of Deed Records.
Common street address (if any): 94963 Lakeview Ct, Lawton, MI 49065-9205
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 14, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1569126
(08-14)(09-04

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: MTCT46 LLC; Atty: KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO - KREIS ENDERLE - KALAMAZOO; 1st Pub: 8/21/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE OF LIEN AGAINST CONDOMINIUM UNIT IN OLD HARBOR VILLAGE CONDOMINIUM NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the certain Lien Against Condominium Unit in Old Harbor Village Condominium ("Lien") will be foreclosed by a sale of the premises (as defined below) at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, Michigan, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m., on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the Lien may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the premises. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than ninety (90) days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the Lien at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Old Harbor Village Condominium Association recorded the aforementioned Lien, dated December 9, 2024, against the premises owned by MTCT46 LLC, a Michigan limited liability company, which address is 515 Williams Street, South Haven, Michigan 49090 ("Owner"), which premises are a Unit in the Old Harbor Village Condominium. The Lien was recorded on December 9, 2024, in the Van Buren County Register of Deeds, at Liber 1772, Page 974. As of August 21, 2025, the amount claimed to be due under the Lien is the sum of Nine Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Six and 70/100 Dollars ($9,376.70), including interest and attorney fees. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue and which are permitted under Michigan law. Under the power of sale contained in the Condominium Bylaws and under Section 108 of the Michigan Condominium Act, as amended, notice is hereby given that the Lien will be foreclosed by sale of the premises at public sale to the highest bidder at the Van Buren County Courthouse, which address is 212 East Paw Paw Street, 2nd Floor, Paw Paw, Michigan 49079, and which is the place of the holding of the Circuit Court for Van Buren County, State of Michigan, on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. The premises subject to the Lien is situated in the City of South Haven, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan and legally described as follows: Unit 13, Old Harbor Village Condominium, a Condominium according to the Master Deed recorded in Liber 813, Page 616, as amended, in the Office of the Van Buren County Register of Deeds, and designated as Van Buren County Condominium Subdivision Plan No. 17, together with rights in general common elements and limited common elements as set forth in said Master Deed, and amendments thereto, and described in Act 59 of Public Acts of 1978 as amended.
Parcel Address: 515 Williams Street, Unit 13, South Haven, Michigan 49090 Parcel Tax ID: 80-53-775-006-30 If the premises is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be six (6) months from the date of sale, unless the premises is abandoned, in which case the redemption period is one (1) month. If the premises are sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the Owner and any other person liable on the Lien will be held responsible to the person who buys the premises at the foreclosure sale or to the Lien holder for damaging the premises during the redemption period.
Dated: August 21, 2025 LIEN HOLDER: Old Harbor Village Condominium Association 515 Williams Street, P.O. Box 46 South Haven, Michigan 49090 Attorneys for the Old Harbor Village Condominium Association: Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C. Attention: Jeffrey D. Swenarton 750 Trade Centre Way, Suite 250 Portage, Michigan 49002 (269) 324-3000
(08-21)(09-11)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Joan Lewis; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 8/14/2025; Atty File #: 525284F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 18, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jean G. Murphy aka Jean Murphy and Joan Lewis, as joint tenants with full rights of survivorship and not as tenants in common
Original Mortgagee: New Century Mortgage Corporation
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as successor by merger to Wells Fargo Bank Minnesota, National Association, as Trustee for the registered holders of the Merrill Lynch Mortgage Investors, Inc., Mortgage Loan Asset Backed Certificates Series 2002-NC1
Date of Mortgage: March 1, 2002
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 17, 2002
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $50,308.06
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 24, Block 11 of Ravinia Park Addition to the City of South Haven, according to the plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 3, Page 58.
Common street address (if any): 529 Elkenburg St, South Haven, MI 49090-1906
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 14, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1569436
(08-14)(09-04)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Tara Lynne Colvin; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 8/14/2025; Atty File #: 25-002230-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 11, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Tara Lynne Colvin, a woman
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: April 17, 2014 Recorded on May 1, 2014, Liber 1602, on Page 465, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: One Hundred Twenty Thousand Eight Hundred Six and 03/100 Dollars ($120,806.03) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: LOT 48, ROLLING MEADOWS, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 8 OF PLATS ON PAGE 118, VAN BUREN COUNTY RECORDS.
Commonly known as 54101 Ridgeview Cir, Paw Paw, MI 49079 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Morgan Stanley Private Bank, National Association Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1569474
(08-14)(09-04)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James F Molnar; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 8/21/2025; Atty File #: 22-003040-3; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): James F. Molnar and Barbara L. Molnar, husband and wife
Original Mortgagee: The Huntington National Bank s/b/m TCF National Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank Shoreline f/k/a Shoreline Bank Date of mortgage: July 29, 1998 Recorded on August 4, 1998, Liber 1187, on Page 843, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Thirty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen and 88/100 Dollars ($32,916.88) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: The East 210 feet of the North 1/2 of the North 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 17, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, except the South 30 feet thereof. Commonly known as 520 N Van Buren St, Bloomingdale, MI 49026
The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale will be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's attorney. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The Huntington National Bank s/b/m TCF National Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank s/b/m Chemical Bank Shoreline f/k/a Shoreline Bank Mortgagee/Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400
1570089
(08-21)(09-11)

Van Buren; Mtgr: Roger Miller; Atty: Team X; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 525440F01; Insurer: (unknown)
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Roger Miller, Married Man
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: June 2, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: June 16, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $225,620.82
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Township of Waverly, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Beginning at a point found by commencing at the East 1/4 post of Section 36, Town 2 South, Range 14 West, and running thence with bearings referenced to a survey recorded in Liber 1 of Surveys on Page 50, South 89 degrees 58 minutes 56 seconds West along the East and West 1/4 line of the East 1/2 of said Section 963.33 feet; thence South 00 degrees 19 minutes 43 seconds West 328.90 feet; thence South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 130.09 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds West 149.97 feet; thcncc South 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds East 580.40 feet to the Westerly right of way of M-40 Highway; thence around a curve to the left with a radius of 2241.83 feet, along said Westerly right of way to the far end of a chord which bears North 33 degrees 54 minutes 11 seconds East 149.97 feet; thence North 54 degrees 10 minutes 48 seconds West 580.40 feet to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 46644 M 40, Paw Paw, MI 49079-8505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: August 28, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1570126
(08-28)(09-18)

BCNS # 259584/Reference # Cascade / Irwin_13422.0074
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 p.m. on October 2, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the Mortgagor(s): Christine Irwin and Paul Irwin, wife and husband Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Southwest Stage Funding, LLC dba Cascade Financial Services Date of Mortgage: July 18, 2019
Date of Mortgage Recording: July 29, 2019 in Liber 1687, Page(s) 232, et. seq., with a Construction Conversion Agreement, dated November 1, 2019 and recorded on November 13, 2019 in Liber 1692, Page 32, et. seq.
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Southwest Stage Funding, LLC (d/b/a Cascade Financial Services) Date of Assignment: August 6, 2025 Date of Assignment Recording: August 7, 2025 Amount claimed due on date of Notice: $140,769.27, which amount may or may not be the entire indebtedness owed by Debtors to Mortgagee together with interest at 9.84 percent per annum. Description of Mortgaged Premises:
LAND SITUATED IN CITY OF HARTFORD, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN TO-WIT:
BEGINNING AT A POINT FOUND BY COMMENCING

Continues on page 11

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 10

AT THE SOUTH QUARTER POST OF SECTION 16, TOWN 3 SOUTH, RANGE 16 WEST, AND RUNNING THENCE WITH BEARINGS REFERENCED TO THE WEST LINE OF ALLEN HUNTLEY AND STICKNEY'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF HARTFORD, AS A MERIDIAN, EAST 599.32 FEET, THENCE NORTH ALONG THE SOUTHERLY EXTENSION OF THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID SUBDIVISION 757.62 FEET TO THE WESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO RAILROAD AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS DESCRIPTION, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 390.93 FEET, THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 10 SECONDS EAST 143.77 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF PLEASANT STREET, THENCE AROUND A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH A RADIUS OF 102.51 FEET TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD WHICH BEARS SOUTH 60 DEGREES 46 MINUTES 05 SECONDS EAST 75.57 FEET TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID RAILROAD, THENCE AROUND A CURVE TO THE RIGHT WITH A RADIUS OF 2808.32 FEET TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD WHICH BEARS SOUTH 30 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 29 SECONDS WEST 418.73 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING which also includes any interest Cascade may have in the 2020 Clayton Mobile Home, Serial Number WK1108275INAB The property is more commonly known as: 210 Pleasant Street, Hartford, Michigan 49057-1235. The redemption period shall be six (6) months unless the property is established to be abandoned pursuant to MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be the later of thirty (30) days from the date of sale or fifteen (15) days from the date the notice required by MCL 600.3241a(b) was posted and mailed, or unless under MCL 600.3240(11), prior to the foreclosure sale the borrower follows the procedure set forth in that section to establish the presumption that the property is used for Agricultural purposes, in which case the redemption period shall be one (1) year from the date of the sale. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under MCL 600.3201 et. seq., the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. This notice is from a debt collector. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of notice: August 20, 2025 By: Gary D. Popovits (P63861) Pezzetti, Vermetten, Popovits & Umulis, P.C., Attorneys for Mortgagee, 600 E. Front Street, Suite 102 - P.O. Box 5817, Traverse City, Michigan 49696-5817; (231) 929-3450 File No.: 13422.0074 Ad #2595

(8/28)(9/18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Willard Rayborn; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 25-010576; Insurer: GNMA

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Willard Rayborn and Cheryl Ann Rayborn, husband and wife, to Horizon Bank, FSB, Mortgagee, dated December 21, 2004 and recorded December 29, 2004 in Liber 1428, Page 516 Van Buren County Records, Michigan. Said mortgage is now held by Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Forty-Five Thousand One Hundred Seventy and 75/100 Dollars ($45,170.75).

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on SEPTEMBER 25, 2025.

Said premises are located in the Village of Breedsville, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:

Lot 6, except the West 28.8 feet thereof, also Except the East 164.9 feet of said lot, Block 15, of the original plat of Breedsville, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Van Buren County.

50 W Main St, Breedsville, Michigan 49027

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.

Dated: August 28, 2025

File No. 25-010576

Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC

Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084

Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400

(08-28)(09-18)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Adriana Ramirez; Atty: Team J; 1st Pub: 8/28/2025; Atty File #: 524613F01; Insurer: (unknown)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on September 25, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:

Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Adriana Ramirez

Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns

Foreclosing Assignee (if any): SELENE FINANCE LP

Date of Mortgage: June 20, 2024

Date of Mortgage Recording: July 9, 2024

Amount claimed due on date of notice: $187,629.57

Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Gobles, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: That part of Section 25, Town 1 South, Range 14 West, City of Gobles, Van Buren County, described as: Beginning at the Southeast Corner of Lot 13, Block 6, of the original Plat of the City of Gobles according to the Plat thereof; thence North 88 degrees 22 minutes 57 seconds West 132.00 feet along the South line of Lot 13, Block 6 of said Plat; thence North 88 degrees 18 minutes 17 seconds West 45.00 feet along the South line of Lot 14, Block 6 of said Plat; thence North 00 degrees 48 minutes 27 seconds East 84.82 feet; thence South 88 degrees 26 minutes 11 seconds East 45.00 feet to the East line of Lot 11, Block 6 of said Plat; thence South 88 degrees 26 minutes 11 seconds East 132.00 feet along the North line of the South 19.00 feet of lot 12, Block 6 of said Plat; thence South 00 degrees 48 minutes 33 seconds West 84.98 feet along the East line of Lots 12 and 13, Block 6 of said Plat to the point of beginning

Common street address (if any): 202 W Exchange St, Gobles, MI 49055-9315

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).

If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.

This notice is from a debt collector.

Date of notice: August 28, 2025

Trott Law, P.C.

31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

(248) 642-2515

1570631

(08-28)(09-18)

Lawrence cross country runners off to good start

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWRENCE – The fall cross country season got off to a strong start recently with the Jim Carey EarlyBird Invitational, hosted by Lawrence Public Schools.

Teams from across the region including Comstock, Delton-Kellogg, Hartford, Martin, and Eau Claire gathered to compete in the annual event, which has become a staple for area runners and continues to add teams each year.

Competing for Lawrence were Adrain Valareo - 26:31 , Walter Waite - 34:31, Aurora McQueen - 29.09, for the Varsity and Rendyn Alfieri - 13:13 and Landon Marsh-Peek - 26:13 for the Jr. High. "Each year we start the season with just a few more kids than we did the year before. Then when school starts and the season gets started, we pick a few more here and there. That's a nice thing for our program. Coach Sturgis

Head Coach Rodney K. Sturgis noted that the Early Bird Invitational is designed not just as a competition, but also as a chance for teams to measure progress and build momentum for the season ahead.

"This meet is always a great way to see where we're at," said coach Sturgis. "Our runners pushed themselves, supported each other."

Lawrence's runners are looking forward to building on this performance as they prepare for upcoming meets. Next up for the Tigers was the RustBuster Invitational in South Haven on Aug. 27.

Valario was 94th in 24 minutes, 8.1 seconds. Colten Anders was 98th in 26:59.4. For the girls Aurora McQueen was 71st in 26:52.2.

South Haven standout ready for volleyball

By John Raffel
Correspondent

SOUTH HAVEN — Ly'Nique Cunningham had a very busy and productive summer for South Haven and is getting ready for the 2025-26 sport season.

Cunningham will be a junior.

"I played AAU basketball over the summer," Cunningham said "From April until the end of July. We finished the 24th of July. That was our last tournament of the season. In June we had team camps."

Cunningham played AAU ball with West Michigan Drive out of Grand Rapids. She already has passed the 1,000-point carer level after two seasons.

Cunningham is now getting ready for the South Haven volleyball season. "They had different team camps (during the summer) but I wasn't able to attend them because I had tournaments at the same time," Cunningham said.

The practice season opened on Aug. 11. "I'm usually middle (hitter) most of the time," Cunningham said. "I will probably be middle again but I'm not really sure."

It will be her second year coming up.

"Last year we won conference and made it to the district finals," Cunningham said. "We won a lot of games in previous years with different competition."

Cunningham is looking forward to the volleyball season. "It should be pretty good," she said. "We have some new girls coming in."

Cunningham runs track in the spring for South Haven. She's a high jumper, sprinter and relay runner. She got a new PR with 5 foot even in the high jump and won some relay and 100-meter races. She qualified for the state meet in the high jump but did not attend because of basketball.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
A Public Hearing regarding the Application for a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate Under P.A. 210 of 2005, As Amended

Notice is hereby given that PEK Investments, LLC, a Michigan Limited Liability Company has submitted a request to the Village of Paw Paw for a Commercial Rehabilitation Exemption Certificate under the Commercial Rehabilitation Act, P.A. 210 of 2005. The exemption is requested for 10 years.

The proposed project consists of the property at 854 S Kalamazoo Street, legally described as 1404 13-3-14 511-350 689-111 1165-194 COM AT W 1/4 PT OF SEC, TH S 88 DEG 55'33"E ALG E & W 1/4 L 1759.56', TH N 1 DEG 04'33"W ALG FORMER CEN L OF S KALAMAZOO ST 154.96', TH ALG A CURVE TO THE RT WITH A RAD OF 1615.38' TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD BRG N 10DEG 11'35"W 65.59' TO BEG OF DES, TH ALG A CURVE TO THE LEFT WITH A RAD OF 1615.38' TO THE FAR END OF A CHORD BEARING S 10 DEG 11'35"E 65.59', TH S 1 DEG 04'33"E 108.63' TO N L OF AMPEY ROAD, TH S 73 DEG 03'48"W ALG SD RD 12.94 TH ALG A CURVE TO THE RTWITH RAD OF 538.69' TO FAR END OF CHORD BEARING S 74 DEG 49'57"W 33.25', TH CON ALG N L AMPEY ROAD N 88- DEG 55'33"W TO PT 31.58' E OF W L OF SE 1/4 NW 1/4, TH N PAR TO SD L 186.21', TH S 88 DEG 55'33"E TO BEG. UNPLATTED.

Pursuant to section 4(2) of the said Act, a public hearing shall be held on September 22, 2025 at 7 p.m., shortly after the start of the regular Village Council meeting, held at the Paw Paw District Library, 609 West Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw, Michigan, during which any resident or taxpayer of the Village of Paw Paw may appear and be heard in relation to the consideration of the aforementioned Commercial Exemption Certificate. Written comment may be provided to the Village Council at Paw Paw Village Hall, attn: Village Clerk, prior to the meeting. Additional information regarding this hearing is available at Paw Paw Village Hall, 111 East Michigan Avenue between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. A written request for information may be submitted to Paw Paw Village Clerk Karla Tacy at the same address, or through email at k.tacy@pawpaw.net.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Notice of Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance Adoption; a PILOT Agreement with Community Advancement Advisors, LLC and the Village of Paw Paw.

On Monday, September 22, 2025 a public hearing will be held by the Village of Paw Paw Village Council at 7 p.m. at the Paw Paw District Library, located at 609 West Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw, Michigan, 49079, for the purpose of hearing comments related to the adoption of an ordinance to provide for the payment of a service charge in lieu of taxes for low income residential rental property pursuant to the provisions of the State Housing Development Authority Act of 1966, as amended. The properties are located at 146 & 150 Lake Street, and 675 Hazen Street in the Village of Paw Paw.

Please note that, if approved, this ordinance would include the repeal of previous agreements with the owners of these properties.

The hearing will commence shortly after the start of the regular Village Council meeting at 7 p.m. Public comment will be taken at the hearing, however written comment may be provided to the Village Council at Paw Paw Village Hall, attn: Village Clerk, prior to the meeting. Additional information regarding this hearing is available at Paw Paw Village Hall, 111 East Michigan Avenue between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. A written request for information may be submitted to Paw Paw Village Clerk Karla Tacy at the same address, or through email at k.tacy@pawpaw.net.

VILLAGE OF MATTAWAN
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Mattawan has renewed the franchise agreement with DirecTV. This renewal will go into effect four weeks after the publication of this notice. A copy in full of the franchise agreement renewal is on file and available for public inspection at the Village of Mattawan Office located at the address below.

Village of Mattawan
24221 Front Avenue, Mattawan, MI 49071
(269) 668-2128 • offices@mattawanmi.com
Jolie Storm-Artis, Village Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that **The Shed Self Storage,** phone **(269) 200-2156**, located at **72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065** will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at **www.StorageAuctions.com.** Auction will close on or after **Wednesday September 24, 2025 at 10:00 am.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold: **William Stayner**

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